

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a personal interview with an Applicant's Representative Richard A. Gollhofer (Reg. No.: 31,106) on Tuesday March 04, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph beginning at page 10, line 5, is REPLACED with the following paragraph:

When the user wants to become a member of a first service, the first determining device 24 references the qualification criterion information for qualifying the membership of the first service and obtains identification information of a second service, the identification information being contained in the qualification criterion information. The first determining device 24 determines whether or not the user has used a second service corresponding to the identification information and passes the determined result to the second determining device 25. When the determined result represents that user has used the second service, the second determining device 25 determines that the user has a membership qualification for the first service.

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The paragraph beginning at page 10, line 21, is REPLACED with the following paragraph:

According to the processing system, when the user becomes a member of a new service, the membership qualification can be determined corresponding to membership

qualification conditions of a service of which the user has become a member instead of user's personal information. Thus, the membership qualification can be simplified. Thus, the load of a service provider alleviates.

The paragraph beginning at page 25, line 18, is REPLACED with the following paragraph:

When the determined result at step S13 is Yes (namely, the user information management table 37 contains the serial number of the common certificate), the server 33 inquires the user 31 whether or not the user 31 wants to prohibit the use of the service B (at step S20-1). When the determined result at step S20-1 is No (namely, the user does not want to prohibit the use of the service B), the server 33 completes the process.

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The paragraph beginning at page 35, line 18, is REPLACED with the following paragraph:

The membership qualification table shown in Fig. 13 contains a service ID and qualification criteria. The qualification criteria include a company ID and a service ID of a service provided by the company. The membership qualification table is used to qualify the membership of a user to a service corresponding to membership qualification conditions of another service.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawings include changes to FIGS. 2 and 10.

The replacement sheet containing FIG. 2 replaces the original sheet including FIG. 2 to change the reference characters in FIG. 2 to match the reference characters used in the text of the specification on pages 8-12 where FIG. 2 is discussed.

The replacement sheet containing FIG. 10 replaces the original sheet including FIG. 10 to correct the spelling of "MANAGEMENT" in block 52.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) The processing system as set forth in claim 4, wherein said storing device stores a plurality of service tables of the services, each of which includes a membership condition of a corresponding service, wherein said receiving device receives from the user a request to present an available membership service for the user, and

wherein said processing system further comprises:

a selecting device, in response to the request, extracting, from among the plurality of service tables, a first membership condition from a service table of a current service of which the user has become a member, and a second membership condition from at least one service table of at least one other service of which the user ~~has~~ is not ~~become~~ a member, in response to the request, comparing the first and second membership conditions, and selecting an eligible service of which the user can become a member; and

a presenting device presenting information to the user about the eligible service of which the user can become a member.

2. (previously presented) The processing system as set forth in claim 1, wherein when the user is a member of at least two services, said selecting device totals membership conditions of the at least two services using an AND operation and compares a totaled membership condition with the second membership condition of the service of which the user has not become a member.

3. (previously presented) The processing system as set forth in claim 2, further comprising a registering device registering common certificate information that is in common with the at least two services, wherein said receiving device receives certificate information of the user, and

wherein, when the certificate information of the user corresponds to the common certificate information, said selecting device obtains the membership conditions of the at least two services based on the certificate information of the user.

4. (currently amended) A processing system, comprising:

a storing device storing a plurality of membership qualification tables of a plurality of independent services provided by a plurality of respective different organizations in a membership qualification system, each of the plurality of membership qualification tables including qualification criterion information for qualifying membership of a corresponding service and defining a prescribed service of which a user ought to be a member to have a membership qualification for the corresponding service, and identification information of a first service of the plurality of services being included by qualification criterion information for qualifying membership of a second service of the plurality of services for indicating the prescribed service;

a receiving device receiving information of a user for whom membership qualification is performed;

a first determining device determining, in response to the information of the user, whether the user is utilizing the first service when the user requests membership in the second service; and

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a second determining device determining that the user has a membership qualification for the second service by referring to the membership qualification table of the second service and checking that the identification information of the first service is included in the qualification criterion information of the second service when the user is utilizing the first service.

5. (previously presented) The processing system as set forth in claim 4,

further comprising a registering device registering certificate information for a service that the user is utilizing,

wherein said receiving device receives identification information of the certificate information of the user, and

wherein when the identification information corresponds to the registered certificate information, said first determining device obtains information about the service that the user is utilizing based on the identification information and determines whether or not the user is utilizing the first service.

Claims 6-7 (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) A computer-readable recording medium as set forth in claim 9,

wherein by said receiving the computer receives from the user a request to present an available membership service for the user, and

wherein said method further comprises:

extracting, in response to the request, from among a plurality of service tables of the services, each of which includes a first membership condition of a current service of which the user has become a member, and a second membership condition from at least one service table of at least one other service of which the user has not become a member;

comparing the first and second membership conditions;

selecting an eligible service of which the user can become a member;

and

presenting information to the user about the eligible service of which the user can become a member.

9. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium on which a program for a computer is recorded, said program, when executed by the computer, causing the computer to perform a method comprising:

receiving information of a user for whom membership qualification is performed;

determining whether the user is utilizing a first service in a membership qualification system using membership qualification tables of independent services provided by a plurality of respective different organizations, each of the membership qualification tables including qualification criterion information for qualifying membership of a corresponding service and defining a prescribed service of which a user ought to be a member to have a membership qualification for the corresponding service, when the user requests membership in a second service in the membership qualification system based on the identification information of the first service included in the qualification criterion information for qualifying membership of the second service; and

determining that the user has a membership qualification for the second service by referring to the membership qualification table of the second service and checking

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that the identification information of the first service is included in the qualification criterion information of the second service when the user is utilizing the first service.

Claim 10 (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) The processing method as set forth in claim 12, wherein said storing includes storing a plurality of service tables of the services, each of the service tables including a membership condition of a corresponding service, wherein said receiving includes receiving from the user a request to present an available membership service for the user, wherein said processing method further comprises:

extracting, in response to the request, from among the plurality of service tables, a first membership condition from a service table of a current service of which the user has become a member and a second membership condition from at least one service table of at least one other service of which the user has not become a member; comparing the first and second membership conditions; and selecting an eligible service of which the user can become a member, and wherein said displaying includes displaying information about the eligible service of which the user can become a member on the screen.

12. (currently amended) A processing method, comprising:

referencing qualification criterion information for qualifying membership of a first service in a membership qualification system using membership qualification tables of independent services provided by a plurality of respective different organizations, each of the membership qualification tables including qualification criterion information for qualifying membership of a corresponding service and defining a prescribed service of which a user ought to be a member to have a membership qualification for the corresponding service, when a user requests membership in the first service;

receiving information of a user for whom membership qualification is performed; determining, in response to the information of the user, whether the user is utilizing a second service in the membership qualification system based on the

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identification information of the second service included in the qualification criterion information;

determining that the user has a membership qualification for the first service by referring to the membership qualification table of the first service and checking that the identification information of the second service is included in the qualification criterion information of the first service when the user is utilizing the second service; and displaying a qualification result on a screen.

Claims 13-19 (cancelled)

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11 and 12 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per independent claims 4, 9 and 12, the best domestic prior art, Rothman et al. teach a method, system and a computer-readable medium having instructions for execution by a computer said method, including:

a storing device storing a plurality of membership qualification tables of a plurality of services in a membership qualification system, each of the plurality of membership qualification tables including qualification criterion information, and information regarding services of which a user is a member, and identification information of a first service of the plurality of services being included by qualification criterion information for determining a second service of the plurality of services in response to the information of the user, whether the user is utilizing the first service when the user receives an offer to become a member of the second service, wherein said determining that the user has a membership qualification for the second service includes referring to the membership

qualification table of the second service and checking that the identification information of the first service matches the qualification criterion information of the second service when the user is utilizing the first service.

However, Rothman et al. fails to teach or fairly suggest that said referencing qualification criterion information for qualifying membership of a first service in a membership qualification system using membership qualification tables of independent services provided by a plurality of respective different organizations further includes each of the membership qualification tables including qualification criterion information for qualifying membership of a corresponding service and defining a prescribed service of which a user ought to be a member to have a membership qualification for the corresponding service, when a user requests membership in the first service; and said determining step further including in response to the information of the user, whether the user is utilizing a second service in the membership qualification system based on the identification information of the second service included in the qualification criterion information, determining that the user has a membership qualification for the first service by referring to the membership qualification table of the first service and checking that the identification information of the second service is included in the qualification criterion information of the first service when the user is utilizing the second service.

The best foreign art, Walker et al., while teaching an automated credit and liability review and approval process, including forms background credit worthiness evaluations based on applicant's credit score financial information and new or existing relationship with the financial institution, fails to teach or fairly suggest the use of membership qualification tables of independent services provided by a plurality of respective different organizations wherein each of the membership qualification tables including qualification criterion information for qualifying membership of a corresponding service and defining a prescribed

service of which a user ought to be a member to have a membership qualification for the corresponding service, when a user requests membership in the first service; and that said approval process includes in response to the information of the user, whether the user is utilizing a second service in the membership qualification system based on the identification information of the second service included in the qualification criterion information, determining that the user has a membership qualification for the first service by referring to the membership qualification table of the first service and checking that the identification information of the second service is included in the qualification criterion information of the first service when the user is utilizing the second service.

The remaining dependent claims are considered allowable, as they are dependent and based off of an allowable independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reason for Allowance".

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Igor Borissov whose telephone number is 571-272-6801. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Igor N. Borissov/
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